

COMMANDER ANDERSON: The sea valley? It parallels the coast. At this point -- (indicating) -- and leads into the true Arctic Basin, into really deep water, which exists all the way up to the Pole and all the way across.

Q: How wide does it get?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: It gets to the point, sir, where I believe it's 10 or 12 miles, and by the time it becomes ten or twelve miles wide, you enter the Arctic Basin itself and the water is extremely deep.

Q: How deep is that, sir?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: It progresses quite rapidly from the neighborhood of 1200 feet to over 12 thousand feet.

Q: How thick does the ice become?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: How thick? At that point the ice, on the average, is in the neighborhood of ten to fifteen feet thick.

Q: Is this on account of the time of year, or does it stay that way pretty constantly?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: During the summer months it will have wasted away on the average of two to three feet by the time of year. In winter that amount will grow back. Now ice in the Arctic Basin is in motion. Frequently it is under pressure, due to winds and currents. It piles up on each other and forms pressure ridges. You see many, many pressure ridges from the projections down from the ice. Those will measure fifty feet in draft. On some occasions they will measure considerably more.

Q: How deep were you?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: We were cruising below 400 feet, sir. We were cruising at a classified depth.

Q: What does that mean, sir?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: See?

Q: What does that mean, sir?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: We are permitted to say that we can go below 400 feet.

Q: Can you give your maximum cruising depths?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: No sir, I am not permitted to say. I can simply say that we are permitted to say that we can go below 400 feet.

Q: Have you any indication of how fast?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: We are permitted to say that we can cruise at speeds over 20 knots.

Q: How fast were you going under the Pole?

COMMANDER ANDERSON: Under the Pole we were going over 20 knots. (laughing)

Q: Do you have any indication whether the Russians spotted you at the time that you were passing through the Bering Straits?